A semantic field study examining the meanings represented by the Old English lexemes wēnan, gelȳfan, pencan, gepencan, þyncan, hycgan, and hogian in the poems Beowulf and The Wanderer found that the words represent a variety of concepts with varying strength. Wēnan generally expresses belief, but can also indicate understanding, be used pragmatically, and indicate hope. In contrast, gelȳfan can only represent belief, and that belief must be near certain or else be a belief in God. Pencan is a more general term, encompassing several modes of thought, as well as volition. This contrasts with gepencan, which represents only simple, discrete thoughts, and the noun form þanc, which expresses emotions and the concept of thought in general. Hycgan covers a similar range as þanc, but can also express multiple thoughts, as well as belief. Finally, hogian expresses the presence of mental activity, complexity of thought, and volition.